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1. ASSOCIATION DES ETATS GENERAUX DES ETUDIANTS DE L'EUROPE (AEGEE) (Special Consultative Status granted in 1998)

1. Introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the Organization

The *Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe* (AEGEE) was established in 1985 as a forum for young Europeans. AEGEE promotes a unified Europe without prejudices, strives towards an open and tolerant society and fosters democracy, human rights, international cooperation and a European dimension in education. It is AEGEE's mission to inform and educate the young people of Europe about European values, its diverse cultures and its heritage, to find realistic solutions to social and political problems, to build and strengthen democracy and civil society as well as a culture of peace and cooperation, to extend the range of educational opportunities available to young people throughout Europe and to encourage and facilitate youth mobility, activism and integration. AEGEE's fields of action are: cultural exchange, active citizenship, higher education and peace and stability. AEGEE is one of the largest European interdisciplinary student associations uniting approximately 15.000 students in 240 local organizations, operating in 41 countries all over Europe. AEGEE is a secular, politically independent, non-profit organization.

2. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Throughout the quadrennium 2002-2005, the organization maintained relations to ECOSOC and other United Nations bodies and agencies as UNESCO and the World Bank. Representatives of AEGEE have also actively participated in the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva, Switzerland (10-12 December 2003).

Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC)

AEGEE has not been present at ECOSOC meetings during the period 2002-2005. However, a representative of AEGEE participated in the "10-Year Review of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)" held in New York, 3-7 October 2005, organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Youth at the United Nations Division of Social Development. The representative helped to prepare the interactive and informal roundtable discussion "Young people: Making Commitments Matter," participated actively in side events organized by other youth NGOs, observed the meetings of the Third Committee, the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and informed the organization about the outcome of the conference.

UNESCO

Since its successful participation in the "World Conference on Higher Education in the Twenty-first Century: Vision and Action" held in Paris, France, 5-9 October 1998, AEGEE is actively involved in consulting UNESCO concerning higher education. Between 2002 and 2005, AEGEE representatives participated in several follow-up conferences and meetings such as the "First Global Forum on International Quality Assurance, Accreditation and the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education" in Paris, 17-18 October 2002, the "8th UNESCO/NGO Collective Consultation on Higher Education" in Paris, 13-15 January 2003 or the "Meeting of Higher Education Partners – World Conference on Higher Education +5" in Paris, 23-25 June 2003. On 1 December 2004, AEGEE representatives met with the UNESCO Youth Unit for informal consultations. In 2005, AEGEE participated in the "9th

UNESCO/NGO Collective Consultation on Higher Education" in Paris, 6-8 April; a representative was present in several workshops and contributed to the statement of student organizations. AEGEE was also present at the 4th UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris, 30 September - 2 October 2005 on "Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples – Ideas for Action in Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication." The representative participated in several workshops and provided input for the final outcome document of the conference. AEGEE also participated in the International Conference of NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO "Knowledge for All 'To Ensure Sustainable Development'," 14-16 December 2005, Paris; the representative was part of the group of NGOs preparing the establishment of the Youth Joint Programmatic Commissions (JPC Youth).

World Bank

In October 2003, the World Bank launched the European Essay Competition "Imagine" which invited young people from all over Europe to develop concrete and innovative proposals on the role of Europeans in fighting poverty and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The competition was organized in partnership with AEGEE and other organizations. As a partner, AEGEE advertised and promoted the 2003-2004 competition's theme "Radically Reducing World Poverty: What Role for Europeans?" and encouraged its members and students all over Europe to participate. AEGEE was also a partner in the 2004-2005 competition "Building a Secure Future, Seeking Practical Solutions." Besides promoting the competition, representatives of AEGEE were part of the Steering Committee, regulating the format and content of the competition, as well as the Selection Committee (Jury), evaluating and pre-selecting the submitted essays.

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

AEGEE participated actively in the first phase of WSIS, especially its preparatory process. Representatives of AEGEE were present at PrepCom-1 in Geneva, Switzerland, 1-5 July 2002 and PrepCom-2 in Geneva, 17-28 February. The Secretary General of AEGEE submitted a paper on e-learning (WSIS/PC-3/C/0057) during the Intersessional Meeting between PrepCom-2 and PrepCom-3 in Paris, France, 15-18 July 2003. Representatives of AEGEE were also present at PrepCom-3 in Geneva, participated as observers at WSIS in Geneva, 10-12 December 2003, and informed the organization about its results. In November 2003, AEGEE also organized seven European seminars related to WSIS in cooperation with its partner TakingITGlobal.

3. Other relevant activities in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the United Nations

Each year, AEGEE organizes a large variety of international events and projects – within the framework of its main fields of action – in order to promote international cooperation and understanding. Those events are not directly linked to the United Nations but reflect the spirit of its charter.

Odessa National University Model United Nations (ONUMUN)

Since 2003, AEGEE-Odessa, the local branch of AEGEE in Odessa, Ukraine, organizes ONUMUN in cooperation with the Odessa National University. Model United Nations (MUN) simulate the work of the United Nations, its bodies and agencies, and enable

students to experience the principles and purposes of the United Nations charter as well as international diplomacy and negotiation. MUNs also foster international cooperation and understanding among students. AEGEE-Odessa helped to organize three MUNs so far: on 29-30 November 2003, 26-28 November 2004 and 25-27 November 2005. About 100 students from all over Europe participate each year.

International Projects

Within the framework of the main fields of action, AEGEE organizes several international projects each year. The "Youth and Globalisation" project organized in 2003, 2004 and 2005, explored the role of youth in fostering civil society and encouraged international youth cooperation. Within this project AEGEE organized the "World Youth Summit on Youth and Globalization," 10-12 December 2003 in Brussels, Belgium which brought together 200 young people and NGO representatives from all over the globe to discuss the economic, political and cultural effects of globalisation on youth. "EuroIslam," a project organized in 2004 and 2005, aimed to foster intercultural dialogue between all religions and religious communities, especially Muslims and Christians in Europe. "The Bridge: Connecting Mobility and Disability," organized in 2004 and 2005, addressed the mobility and integration of young people with disabilities in the work of NGOs in order to enable their participation in the development of civil society. "Tolerance – Acceptance – Peace," organized in 2005, consisted of a series of seminars and events on conflict and conflict resolution such as "Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping – Concepts, Strategies and Initiatives for a Peaceful Europe" 8-12 December 2005 in Fribourg, Switzerland, or the "Conflict Resolution Training Course" organized 14-18 December 2005 in Skopje, Macedonia.

2. BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY

(General Consultative Status granted in 1998)

Introductory Statement

The aims of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU) include:

Offering to people of all walks of life a simple, and accessible education in spiritual and moral understanding, principles and values to build human capacity; to reaffirm the spiritual identity, inherent goodness, worth and dignity of the human being and bring about a positive change of awareness, attitude and behaviour as the foundation for the overall advancement and betterment of the human condition; to foster long-term human-centred development, offering a spiritual perspective of contemporary issues of personal, community and world concern and facilitating a greater awareness of corresponding rights and responsibilities.

The BKWSU is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO). The University's collaboration with other organizations include: Co-chair and member of Coordinating Council of the Values Caucus in New York. Member of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Values and Ethics Caucus, a working group set up during the preparatory meetings. Member of the Bureau of the NGO Committee on the Freedom of Religion and Belief and chaired a briefing on behalf of the Committee on "the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on UN and Civil Society Relations." Participates in the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns and the Committee on Human Rights, and co-convenes the "*Jumping the Fence task force*" of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. Cooperates with other organizations in the preparation of joint statements on UN-related issues.

The BKWSU's geographical membership has increased since 2002, in 18 more countries, giving it a presence in a total of 101 countries, territories and islands. During this quadrennial period the *"Serve Africa"* initiative has made a concerted effort to focus on that region. The BKWSU's source of funding remained substantially unchanged during the quadrennial period.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council, its conferences and other UN meetings

2002

Commission on Human Rights, 58th Session, Geneva, 18 March- 26 April 2002

Commission on the Status of Women 46th Session, New York, 4-15 March 2002

UN Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, Spain, 8-12 April 2002

Written Statement: *"Ageing, Dignity and Spirituality"*, Oral Statement: *"Dignity and Ageing"*

UN Special Session on Children, UN Headquarters, New York, 8-10 May 2002

UN World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August- 4 September 2002. Written Statement: *"Spirituality – The Heart of Sustainable Development* ; Booklet on *"Renewable Energy Projects"*.

2003

Commission on Human Rights 59th Session, Geneva, 17 March- 25 April 2003

Commission on the Status of Women 47th Session, New York, 3-14 March 2003

56th Annual NGO/DPI Conference, UN Headquarters, New York, 8-10 September 2003; Written Statement: *"Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the UN Promise"*

World Summit on the Information Society, First Phase, Geneva, 10-12 December 2003; Written Statement: *"An Inclusive Information Society: Wisdom, Vision and Values"*

2004

57th Annual NGO/DPI Conference, UN Headquarters, New York, USA, 8-10 September 2004;

Written Statement: *"Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action"*

Commission on Human Rights, 60th Session, Geneva, 15 March- 23 April 2004

2005

Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly, UN Headquarters, New York, USA, 28 February- 11 March , 2005

Commission on Human Rights, 61st Session, Geneva, 14 March- 22 April 2005; Written Statement: *"Human rights = Inner rights"*

Informal Hearings of the GA with NGOs, Civil Society and the private sector, New York, 23-24 June 2005

58th Annual NGO/DPI Conference, UN Headquarters, 7-9 September 2005; Written Statement: *"Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnership, and Renewal"*

World Summit on the Information Society, Second Phase, Tunis, Tunisia, 16-18 November 2005; Written Statement: *"Informed Individuals; Spiritual Societies"*

Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

Decent Work Agenda, International Labour Organization (ILO): meeting co-sponsored by the ILO and the World Council of Churches, Geneva, February 2002. Written and oral statements made. Statement published by ILO in *"Philosophical and Spiritual Perspectives on Decent Work."*. **Roundtable on *"Spiritual and Philosophical Perspectives of Decent Work"*,** Geneva, December 2005, organized by the International Institute for Labour Studies. Oral statement: *"The Strength and Sustenance of Decent Work."*

UN 60, in cooperation with DPI and UN Staff Recreation Council: The BKWSU, the Values Caucus and the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, co-sponsored *"The Spirit of the United Nations: Markings for the Future"* to honour the UN 60 and the 100th Anniversary of Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, UN Headquarters, October 2005.

Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit, jointly organized by UNDP, Government of Senegal and Global Peace Initiative of Women: *"Providing a Global Platform for Africa's Next Generation of Leaders in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals"*. Oral statement made at the Interfaith Service of the opening plenary, and paper presented at a panel discussion.

Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, UNESCO: BKWSU continues its support through conferences, dialogues, seminars and workshops on peace, conflict prevention and non-violence. In Australia, a series of forums on *"Dialogue among Civilizations"* were initiated. In Uruguay, a research paper was prepared in consultation with and published by UNESCO on the topic of: *"Values Underlying the Uruguayan Culture."*

UN International Day of Peace: Through its network of centres worldwide, the BKWSU works with local communities and involves various sectors of society to focus on world peace on 21st September. Activities are done in collaboration with UN Information Centres, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF and civil society organizations. **UN World Environment Day:** The Scientists and Engineers' Professional Wing of the BKWSU engages the local officials and environmentalists in dialogue on issues of the state of the earth. **International Year of Mountains 2002:** In Moscow more than 200 sport veterans, including the first Soviet Mount Everest climbers, dialogued on "My Peak, My Olympus" highlighting values that help achieve great results and overcome challenges. A photo exhibit was held at UNIC in Moscow.

Other relevant activities: In Support of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Goal 1. Achieve Universal Primary Education: The Living Values Education Programme supported by the BKWSU focuses on primary and secondary levels. It is currently being implemented in more than 8,000 sites in nearly 80 countries. Other programmes include

Activities for Refugees and Children Affected by War, Street Children and Drug Rehabilitation.

Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women: International Women's Day is used to encourage the role of women through public forums, residential retreats, seminars and dialogues on processes of capacity-building, inner empowerment, gender equality and respect.

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases: In India, the Global Hospital and Research Centre, managed by the BKWSU, works in partnership with the World Health Organization in the STOP TB Campaign. The Hospital's Village Outreach Programme works to reduce child mortality and to improve maternal health by providing nutritional supplements, health checkups and the immunization of village children. An associate of the BKWSU, The Janki Foundation for Global Health Care's initiative *Values in Healthcare: A Spiritual Approach*, offers personal and team development programme for healthcare practitioners.

Goal 7. Ensuring Environmental Sustainability: The BKWSU has spearheaded the installation and use of solar energy within rural communities. The research and development programme of the Department of Renewable Energy in operation at its headquarters covers: Hybrid alternative energy systems, Passive solar architecture, Photovoltaic power packs, Solar hot water plants, and steam cooking systems, and Water recycling technologies.

Goal 8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development: The annual Call-of-the-Time Dialogue Series provides the space for policy makers to have conversations filled with insights, ideas and fresh perspectives so that the seeds of true partnerships are developed.

Emergency Relief: (1) Tsunami Relief Activities: The BKWSU helped to identify the immediate needs of Tsunami victims in Sri Lanka. Basic requirements and medical supplies were transported to the camps while care was also taken to help build mental stamina in over 30,000 affected families in Colombo, Kandy and Batticaloa.

3. INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (IRFD)

(Special Category Consultative Status granted in 1998)

Aims and Purposes of the Organization, Membership, Funding, and Affiliations

The International Research Foundation for Development, Inc. is an autonomous, nonpartisan, transnational organization composed of an international community of contemplative thinkers, policy makers, practitioners, and laypersons who are making a concerted effort to improve the quality of life at various levels of the world.

The purposes of the International Research Foundation for Development, Inc. are: 1. to establish and maintain an integrated global network for scientific policy research and advocacy on contemporary development issues; 2. to create a global community of cooperation and partnership for human concerns of sustainable development: socioeconomic, politico-cultural, educational and scientific; 3. to generate and disseminate original and transcendental thought: cross-cultural, cross-nationalistic, cross-regional, and cross-disciplinary; 4. to strengthen civil society intervention in global policy making; 5. to create a viable partnership at all levels for global peace and sustainable development for the new millennium; 6. to launch development projects at community levels.

The foundation has collaborative affiliations with international NGOs in consultative status such as International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR); International Institute for Sustainable Development; Commonwealth Human Ecology; World University Services; Greenpeace International; and World Federalist Movement. Furthermore, IRFD has been working collaboratively with many international research institutions, universities, regional organizations, think tanks and advisory groups.

The foundation's sources of funding are: contributions from regional networks, membership fees and conference registration fees, donor agencies, contributions from individuals. The foundation's membership has increased significantly.

Conferences & NGO Briefings, and Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its Subsidiary bodies

The foundation has organized four international conferences: 1. Economy, Environment and Society - August 27-28, 2002 at Birchwood Executive Hotel & Conference Center in Johannesburg, South Africa; 2. Geneva 2003 Conference, International Air Transport Association (IATA) Conference Center – Geneva, Switzerland – December 8-9, 2003, and Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland – December 10, 2003; 3. Mauritius Conference 2005, University Mauritius – Mauritius – January 10-11, 2005, and Freeport Exhibition Center, Port Louis, Mauritius – January 10, 2005; 4. Tunis 2005 Conference, Renaissance Tunis Hotel – Tunis, Tunisia – November 14-15, 2005, and Kram Center, Tunis, Tunisia – November 16, 2005. These four conferences and events were parallel to the United Nations World Summits and Special Sessions of the General Assembly, and UN International Meetings: Would Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD); World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Phase I & II; and UN International Meeting on Small Island Developing States. These conferences have been used as a window for policy advocacy, furthering research and global education focusing on the implementation gaps on development arenas in view of contributing to the work of the United Nations.

Organizing Side Events, Participation in NGO Briefings

The foundation has organized the following Parallel events and presented papers for NGO forums/briefings: 1. Information Society and Development Paradox in Asia - January 11, 2003, United Nations University, Tokyo; 2. Information Revolution, Digital Divide and Development Paradox - February 20, 2003 at the International Labor Organization (ILO), Room 11, Geneva, Switzerland; 3. Policy Reflections: Digital Divide, Global Development and the Information Society – December 10, 2003 at the Palexpo Exhibition Center-Room P, Geneva, Switzerland; 4. The Role of Cities in an Information Age: ICT Application for Urban Development - At the UN Habitat World Urban Forum Networking Event – September 16, 2004, Barcelona, Spain; 5. Small Island Developing States: Challenges, Prospects and International Cooperation for Sustainable Development – January 10, 2005 at the Freeport Exhibition Center, Port Louis, Mauritius; 6. Digital Divide, Global Development and the Information Society – November 16, 2005 at the International Trade Center of Kram, Room Kasserine, Tunis, Tunisia.

Written Documents: Information Revolution, Digital Divide and Development Paradox: A Global Framework for ICT Policy Formulation (Documents: WSIS/PC-3/CONTR/162-E 15 September 2003 & WSIS/PC-2/CONTR/100-E 17 February 2003); The Role of Cities in an

Information Age: ICT Application for Urban Development (submitted for the World Urban Forum (WUF) II: Report of the IRFD Networking Event)

Foundation's Representation to the UN Meetings

The Foundation's representatives attended the following meetings:

World Summit on the Information Society - Asian Regional Conference, Tokyo, 13-15 January 2003; The second & third session of the Preparatory Committee for WSIS-Phase I (PrepCom-2), 17-28 February 2003; (PrepCom-3), 15-26 September 2003; Geneva (Switzerland), UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD 2002) Johannesburg, South Africa; UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-Phase I 2003) Geneva, Switzerland; WSIS-Phase II 2005) Tunis Tunisia; Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 47th Session, New York (USA), 3-14 March 2003; 48th Session, New York (USA), 1-12 March 2004; 49th Session, New York (USA), 28 February-11 March 2005; 50th Session, New York (USA), 27 February-10 March 2005; and the 59th and 60th sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (March-April 2003 and March-April 2004 respectively in Geneva, Switzerland).

Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

The foundation operates very cooperatively within the ECOSOC system receiving advice and guidance when required. In addition to this general framework of cooperation, several UN officials from the following United Nations bodies and agencies have collaborated and contributed to our parallel events. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD). Prominent figures and officials from UN Bodies were: Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, the Special Representative and Assistant Director-General for UN Affairs, UNIDO; the Director of the Industrial Energy Efficiency Branch, UNIDO, Vienna Office (August 27, 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa); the Director, Information and Communication Technology for Development, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme (December 8, 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland); a member of the UNECE Task force, the Coordinator of the UNEP Infoterra Network, the Environmental Information Management Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (November 14, 2005 in Tunis, Tunisia). In addition to the above UN bodies' involvement in our foundation's activities, IRFD was invited to make a presentation at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) High Level Dialogue within the purview of the UN World Summit on Information Society (December 9, 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland); Lake Toba Summit 2005 on Global Partnership on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Post Disaster Settlement organized by the Network of Regional Government for Sustainable Development in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UN-Habitat, and UNEP (March 10-12, 2005, North Sumatera, Indonesia).

Humanitarian Efforts and Initiatives Aimed at UN Millennium Goals

1. IRFD has undertaken Tsunami Reconstruction Project in Sri Lanka.

2. IRFD has designed a project on ICT application with the intention of contributing to MDG

4. MARYKNOLL SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC, INC.

(Special Consultative Status granted 1998)

Introduction: Aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic (hereafter referred to as the *Maryknoll Sisters*) is to participate in the mission presence and activity of the Catholic Church and was established as a response to the needs for a global mission. To accomplish this, the Maryknoll Sisters reach out to peoples of other lands, bridging the barriers of differing cultures, races and religions in order to: to learn and understand; to promote a more just and humane society; to offer solidarity, hope and love to a world broken and divided by hatred, conflict and violence.

Membership and work

Since the 2002 Quadrennial Report, the Maryknoll Sisters continue to live and work with the people of twenty-six countries located in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, South and North America. Membership from these areas now include women from Taiwan, Province of China, the Republic of Korea, Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and several countries of Central and South America.

There has been a conscious effort in each locality to assist in fulfilling the UN MDG's. In order to do this, Maryknoll Sisters as a UN NGO has worked closely with the Maryknoll Fathers & Bothers' NGO; with Maryknoll Lay Missioners and Affiliate Volunteers; with civil society and local NGO's in every Region. Their activities consist of: work with poor, with migrant women in the world's largest urban areas. Because projects which support local agriculture and economics are very important, members have cooperated with local communities in small development projects and education programs.

In Africa, they cooperated in work of HIV/AIDS relief; with women, in youth formation and education, and in agriculture and ecological projects. Peace and reconciliation has become a vital need for effort.

In Asia, together with local groups they served migrants, especially those requiring resettlement, those persons in need of education, those suffering from HIV/AIDS; and also, in the restoration of educational institutions.

In Latin America, among other works, they closely cooperated with local efforts in agriculture, education, health (HIV/AIDS) and self-help and poverty-relief programs, and with youth training programs.

In North America there has been increasing efforts to aid the urgent needs of immigrant peoples.

In all Regions, local efforts are often not enough, so in tandem, our members have connected with other NGO's and look to the United Nations for solutions.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

As an NGO with Special Consultative Status, the Maryknoll Sisters closely followed the ECOSOC yearly agendas, and made substantial efforts to respond. The Maryknoll Sisters are members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (**CONGO**) and Non-

Governmental Liaison Service (**NGLS**). They have participated in the following *Committee Working Groups*: Disarmament, Sustainable Development, Ecumenical, Social Development, Racism, and Indigenous; & *Caucus*: Women, HIV/AIDS and Earth Values.

In particular the NGO has sent representatives, often from southern regions to participate in the following UN conferences, meetings and programs and have co-sponsored Side Events at these Conferences:

1 – Maryknoll Sisters are concerned with the seemingly universal causes of poverty and the social effect it has on the people of their regions. Joining a faithful nucleus of NGO's and civil society our NGO attended:

Commission on Social Development:

2003 – 41st Session, February 11-21 at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

2004 - 42nd Session, February 4-13 at United Nations Headquarters, New York

2006 - 44th Session, February 8-17 at UN Headquarters, New York

2- Because members have experienced the destruction of environment and local ways of life, they are involved in and have tried to speak out through Side Events at:

Commission on Sustainable Development:

2002- Second Summit Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM 2): 28 January-8 February 2002 New York [Presented a Side Event: Sustainable Indigenous Agricultural Practices]

2002- March 25-April 5 PREPCOM 3: UN Headquarters, New York

2003-CSD 11 + April 28-May 9: Side event – UN Headquarters, New York: [Maryknoll Aids Task Force: Sustainable Development & HIV/AIDS]

2004-CSD 12 + April 14-30: UN Headquarters, New York [With Earth Values Caucus presented a day long event: Water as a Global Common]

2005 CSD 13: April 11-22, UN Headquarters, New York: [With Earth Values Caucus-Documentary of Water-Caucus Meeting Presentation 18/4/05]

3- *In cooperation with the Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers and with Womens' Environmental & Development Organization (WEDO) – United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) -UN NGO's & Caucus, our members, world wide, have actively participated during Commission with Side Events or sending Representatives:*

Commission on the Status of Women:

2003: 47th Session March 3-14, 2003: UN Headquarters, New York, USA [Side Event: March 12 Maryknoll Aids Force- Film Screening]

2004: 48th Session March 1-12, 2004: UN Headquarters, New York, USA [Sponsored a Young Man from El Salvador]

2005: 49th Session February 28-March 11, 2005: UN Headquarters, New York USA: [Sponsored two Women from Brazil-Panel on Effects of Racism on Women: March 2]

2006: 50th Session February 27-March 10, 2006: UN Headquarters, New York, USA

4- . In solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and in recognition of Indigenous Rights, the following Forums were attended together with Indigenous from Mexico, Bolivia & Peru...

Permanent Forum on Indigenous-(UNFPII):

2003, 2nd Session, 11-23 May 2003: United Nations Headquarters, New York

2004: 3rd Session, May 10-21, 2004: UN Headquarters, New York, USA:[With UNICEF-Working Group Maryknoll Sisters sponsored 2 Indigenous Women & 1Child who gave a statement on the Needs and Rights of Indigenous Girls]

2005: 4th Session, May 16-27, 2005: UN Headquarters, New York

2006: 5th Session, May 15-26, 2006: UN Headquarters, New York

Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies With IANSA [*International Network on Small Arms*] participated in NGO activities with particular interest in illicit small arms & Street Gangs.]

1 (a) - **UN Department for Disarmament Affairs**: **(DDA)** *Because of Maryknoll Sisters involvement with youth education & international conferences regarding gangs & child soldiers they sent representatives to Conferences on* ***Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)****:*

2003: UN Headquarters, New York: Action to Prevent Combat/Eradicate Illicit Trade in **SALW**

2004: June 14-25, UN Headquarters, New York: **Open Ended Working Group** Session on Tracing Illicit: [Statement on *Arming Street Gangs-El Salvador Case* under auspices of ***International Network on Small Arms***]

2005: July 11-15, Second Biennial Meeting: Prevent Trade...Small Arms and Light Weapons: UN Headquarters, New York

1 (b) - Because of members' experience in Japan, the Pacific Islands and disarmament programs they have followed:

2002: April 8-19, UN Headquarters, New York: PrepCom for Review conference on Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

2005: May 2-27 Review Conference on the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at UN, New York: Cooperated with the Mayors for Peace Delegation

2- *Members now realize the source of poverty in our world is either caused or exacerbated by financial institutions, even within the UN system. They have, therefore, endeavored to engage this phenomenon through participation in the following UN Sessions:*

2002: International Conference on Financing for Development-Monterey Mexico (Participated in Roundtables)

2003: UN **High Level GA Dialogue on Financing for Development** and Related Public Hearings (FfD) October 28-30, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA

2004: April 26, at the United Nation Headquarters, New York: ECOSOC/ Bretton Wood Institutions **(BWI)** and World Trade Organization **(WTO)** High level Roundtables (FfD)

2005: May 18-19, UN Headquarters, New York: 2nd UN High Level GA Dialogue on Financing for Development FFD Multi-Stakeholder Consultations on Systemic Issues [with Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility]

3- ***Because members have experienced the destruction of environment and local ways of life, they are involved in and have tried to speak out through*** United Nations Environmental Program **(UNEP)**:

2004: Global Civil Society Forum (UNEP) in Jeju, the Republic of Korea (attended as North American Delegate) Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF), 27- 28th March 2004 Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) , 29 - 31 March 2004 Jeju, the Republic of Korea

2004: 11-13 October 2004 Global Women's Assembly on Environment **(UNEP)** UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya, (attended as Africa Delegate).

4- With great concern regarding both the actuating the MDG's and the serious changes within the UN system proposed as reform participated as far as possible in:

2005: 23-24 June: Informal High Level Hearings of the General Assembly **(GA)** with Non-Governmental & Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector. ...Sponsored a woman from Guatemala as Spokesperson.

5- In 2004, a member worked with UNICEF (*United Nations Children's Fund)* itself; she assisted in writing the section on the Role of Religions for the booklet UNICEF was preparing on the trafficking of children.

Written Statements were submitted from 2002 to 2005 to some of the above Conferences in cooperation with other NGO's. These urged States to use the mechanisms at their disposal to prevent trafficking of women; to eliminate illiteracy, and promote education, especially among girl children. Still other statements were made in Geneva at the High Commission on Human Rights on behalf of Children's Rights in the Context of War, and urging a Total Ban on the Death Penalty. Unfortunately, no dates are available.

Other ***Statements outside the UN***, but focusing United Nations issues include: *Support or the International Criminal Court; Towards a Peaceful End to War and Terrorism; A Call for Abolition the Abolition of Torture; Reflection Paper on Genetically Modified Organisms; Water and the Community of Life*

Other relevant activities

September 21, 2003- International Day of Peace: Maryknoll Sisters hosted a Prayer for Peace at their Headquarters that included world-wide Religious Traditions.

Maryknoll Sisters Africa Region had Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN Habitat, as keynote speaker in 2005 Meeting.

Maryknoll publications

Maryknoll Magazine: Items on the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies are often highlighted in articles, or in the Section called: ***World Watch***. During the past four years, alerts were published on Disarmament, Control of Arms, Trade, HIV/AIDS, Climate Change. One Subject covered in depth was the presentation by youth at the UN Forum on Indigenous Issues.

NewsNotes: Almost every issue of NewsNotes presents news items about the United Nations, as an attempt to help readers become aware of news but also learn about the UN through un-biased reporting.

Maryknoll Magazine - circulation of 400,000; *Revista Maryknoll*, - the Spanish Edition with circulation of 60,000; *NewsNotes*, Office of Global Concern, (bi-monthly newsletter) circulation of 2000; *Voices of Our World* - the Maryknoll radio program heard on 100 radio stations; Maryknoll Videos: ***Coming to Say Goodbye*** - HIV/AIDS in Africa; Maryknoll Web Sites: www.maryknoll.org / www.maryknollogc.org

5. SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

(Special Consultative Status granted 1998)

Part I: Aims and Purposes of the Organization

The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), an international faith-based organization, works in a variety of formal and non-formal education programs to ensure that all people enjoy the right to develop their potential and the opportunity to use their gifts for the common good. As educators with a world vision, the School Sisters of Notre Dame are especially sensitive to the needs of women, children, and those who live in impoverished conditions, as they strive to create a global community where human dignity is respected, the environment is treasured, spirituality is nourished, and justice is practiced. The approximately 4,000 members working in thirty-five countries and two territories with thousands of associates, colleagues, students, and friends, have long supported the goals of the United Nations (UN).

Part II: Participation in the Work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

In the period under review the School Sisters of Notre Dame made active use of the rights and privileges granted to it through its special consultative status with ECOSOC, particularly at meetings of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women. Representatives of the organization participated in United Nations forums, events, commissions, and conferences. SSND organized side-events, participated in multi-stake holder dialogues, made interventions at various UN meetings, and sponsored numerous events around the world in support of the goals and objectives of the UN.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame participated in the following UN meetings:

Economic and Social Council: ECOSOC High Level Segment: *Promoting Rural Development for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development,* NY, 30 April 2003. ECOSOC *Multi-Stake Holder Dialogue*, NY, 17-18 March 2004. *Preparatory Meeting* for the 2005 ECOSOC High-Level Segment, NY, 16-17 March 2005, the director of the SSND UN/NGO office spoke regarding global commitments to girls' education at the *Education and Literacy Round Table*, 16 March 2005.

Commission for Social Development, NY—40th Session, 11-22 February 2002; 41st Session,10-21 February 2003; 42nd Session, 4-13 February 2004; 43rd Session, 9-18 February 2005. Edited *NGO Declaration for Action*, 8 February 2005. Provided expert on girls' education for the High Level Round Table, *Social Integration,* NY, 10 February 2005. Submitted written interventions to the Commission: E/CN.5/2003/NGO/2, *Social Responsibility of the Private Sector;* E/CN.5/2003/NGO/10, *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals;* E/CN.5/2003/NGO/11, *Sharing Practices in Social Development;* E/CN.5/2003/NGO/12, *Workers' Rights*; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/6, *Empowerment and Participation;* E/CN.5/2005/NGO/10, *Education: Key to Social Development;* E/CN.5/2005/NGO/11, *Gender Equality.*

Commission on the Status of Women, NY—46th Session, 4-15 March 2002; 47th Session, 3-14 March 2003; 48th Session, 1-12 March 2004; 49th Session, 28 February-11 March 2005. Chaired the Girls' Caucus in 2004 and 2005. Provided written interventions: E/CN.6/2003/NGO/2, *Women's Human Rights;* E/CN.6/2003/NGO/20, *Trafficking Prevention Strategies;* E/CN.6/2004/NGO/13, *Gender Equality;* E/CN.6/2004/NGO/20, *Life Cycle Approach to Gender Issues;* E/CN.6/2005/NGO/1, *Women and Access to Water;* E/CN.6/2005/NGO/2, *Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value;* E/CN.6/2005/NGO/3, *Human Trafficking;* E/CN.6/2005/NGO/44, *Girls' Rights.*

Commission on Human Rights, Geneva—58th Session, 18-22 March 2002; 59th Session, 17-21 March 2003.

Commission Sustainable Development, NY—11th Session, 28 April-9 May 2003; 12th Session 14-30 April 2004.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issue, NY—1st Session, 12-24 May 2002; 2nd Session, 11-23 May 2003; 3rd Session, 10-21 May 2004. Organized a workshop with the Working Group on Girls (WGG), which enabled indigenous girls to describe their situation NY, 10 May 2004.

International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, 18-22 March 2002.

Co-sponsored preparatory seminar, *The Ethical Dimension of Financing for Development*, NY, 5 March 2002.

World Summit for Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002.

World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva, 10-12 December 2003.

Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector, NY, 23-24 June 2005. Submitted comments on the Secretary-General's report, *In Larger Freedom,* which were quoted extensively in the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) overview report, *Compilation of NGO Comments*; Contributed to two other publications for the 2005 five-year review of the UN Millennium Declaration: (1) The NGO/DPI Executive Committee and the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relations with the United Nations (CONGO), *We Will Spare No Effort: A Civil Society Call to Action for the Five Year Review of the UN Millennium Development Goals* (NY: Millennium +5 Network), 2005 and (2) Foster, John W. and Pera Wells. *We the Peoples 2005, Mobilizing for Change: Messages from Civil Society.* (Ottawa: North-South Institute), 2005.

UN Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya, 20th Session, 4-8 April 2005.

Cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

UN Department of Public Information (DPI)—SSND has been affiliated with DPI since 1993 and has sent a full complement of delegates to the annual DPI/NGO Conference in each of the years in the period under review. Organized and moderated DPI Conference Mid-Day Workshop, "*Educating Girls: Key to Keeping MDG Promises*," NY, 8 September 2004. Organized and moderated mid-day multi-stakeholder dialogue, *Building Education Partnerships to Provide Quality Education for Girls and Eradicate Poverty*, NY, 8 September 2005.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNICEF Board—NGO Committee on UNICEF's Working Group on Girls, member 2002-present, co-chair (2005-present). Edited and published *Fact Sheets on Girls'* (2002). Edited newsletter, *Action for Girls* (2003-2005). Both are available at www.girlsrights.org. Collaborated with UNICEF Regional Planning Coordinator to present workshop for Kenyan teachers re: girls' education, Nairobi, Kenya,15 December 2003. Prepared education section of the NGO Committee on UNICEF statement to the UNICEF Board, NY, 6-10 June 2005.

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Council (UNESCO—Distributed materials, posted resources on SSND website, www.gerhardinger.org, and encouraged participation and advocacy during Education for All Week, 2003-2005.

Other Initiatives in Support of UN Goals and Objectives

Lectures, workshops and symposia 2002-2005—the director of the SSND UN/NGO Office has spoken about the United Nations and the Millennium Development Goals to students and their teachers, university professors, and the general public in Austria, Brazil, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Peru, Slovenia, and the United States of America.

Education and advocacy on issues before the UN—Produced and published six study guides on sustainable development (2004-2005): *Call to Transformation and the Earth Charter (April 2004); The Scope of the Earth Charter (July 2004); Relationship and Community (August 2004); Making Connections, Making Choices (January 2005); Democracy, Nonviolence and Peace (April 2005); The Way Forward (July 2005).* Developed educational programs on human trafficking to train professionals, including law enforcement personnel, health care workers, teachers and the general public, to identify victims and provide essential services. Engaged in various advocacy activities around the MDGs, human rights, debt, trade, and official development assistance at national levels including producing information for constituents and sending letters, emails, and faxes to government officials.

Developed and disseminated materials and promoted participation in UN Observances-- International Day of Peace, 21 September 2003-present; Human Rights Day, 10 December 2004-present; UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace, 8 March 2003-present; World Environment Day, 5 June 2004-present.

Disseminated information about the UN—SSND web page, gerhardinger.org, and SSND newsletter published five times per year (available at gerhardinger.org).

Participated in the on-going work of New York-based NGO Committees and Working Groups—Committee for Social Development and its Sub-Committee on Poverty Eradication, 2002-present; NGO Committee on UNICEF's Working Group on Girls, 2002-present and served as Co-Chair, 2005-present; Committee on Education, 2003-2004.